Without a vapor barrier, moisture from the concrete slab can wick upward into the luxury vinyl plank (LVP) flooring, causing mold and mildew growth, adhesive breakdown for glue-down products, and plank warping, buckling, or cupping over time. cfdistributor.com +1

Risks of Skipping a Vapor Barrier

- **Mold and Mildew:** Trapped moisture creates an ideal breeding ground for harmful mold underneath the planks.
- **Warping and Buckling:** Fluctuating moisture levels cause the vinyl material to expand and contract unevenly, opening gaps or lifting seams.
- **Adhesive Failure:** For glue-down LVP, moisture dissolves or weakens the glue, causing loose and shifting planks.
- **Bad Odors:** A persistent musty or damp smell can emerge from under the floorboards. cfdistributor.com +1

Factors That Influence the Outcome

- **Slab Moisture Levels:** Dry, well-cured above-grade concrete in arid climates may never cause an issue, while basements or ground-level slabs always pump out water vapor. cfdistributor.com +1
- **Product Specifications:** Some LVP features a waterproof, factory-attached underlayment with integrated vapor resistance, while others require a separate 6-mil polyethylene sheet. Facebook · Island Carpet… +2
- **Warranty Rules:** Check specific instructions; skipping a required barrier often voids the product warranty entirely. Reddit · r/HomeImprove… +2